

## Today's Topics:

Good PR for Hams Again  
Jamming during earthquake (was Re: Phonepatches to San Fransisco)  
Phone Patches and Them Jammers  
Phonepatches to San Fransisco (7 msgs)

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Date: Thu, 19 Oct 89 14:42:30 CDT  
From: Will Martin <wmartin@STL-06SIMA.ARMY.MIL>  
Subject: Good PR for Hams Again

Just like during Hugo, the local St. Louis media is giving positive coverage to local ham radio operators who are involved in relaying traffic and information from the earthquake zone. I've seen several TV-news segments and at least one newspaper article already. Somebody here is doing something right, with good media relationships.

Will

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Date: 19 Oct 89 05:16:32 GMT  
From: gem.mps.ohio-state.edu!usc!merlin.usc.edu!girtab.usc.edu!  
eickmeyer@tut.cis.ohio-state.edu (Biff Henderson)  
Subject: Jamming during earthquake (was Re: Phonepatches to San Fransisco)

In article <355@forsight.Jpl.Nasa.Gov> katzmann@robotics.jpl.nasa.gov () writes:  
>The main reason for posting here is just to say how upset I was to hear  
>some of the emergency ham nets getting jammed last night. These jammers  
>are very sick individuals!!  
>[...]  
>Anyway, I was curious if this kind of activity accompanied the emergency  
>ham activities of Hurricane Hugo on the east coast, or are all the fruits  
>and nuts out here in California?

The local NBC affiliate (KNBC, Los Angeles) only showed one interview (that I saw) with a local ham operator. The majority of time the operator talked he was complaining about the jammers and he switched on one frequency that was being jammed for the benefit of the TV audience. I don't want to criticize the operator (didn't catch his name), but it certainly wasn't a very good picture of hams to be portrayed to a large TV audience!

After Hugo hit a few weeks ago, there were a number of posts in this newsgroup from East Coasterners complaining about all the irresponsible use of frequencies that took place there.

I would also like to see an answer to Gordon Banks' question: "Why can't these people be caught?" The three answers that come immediately to mind are: 1. they're mobile and can't easily be triangulated, 2. they only transmit briefly, or 3. during the emergency situation no one wants to waste any time tracking down idiots rather than working on the emergency; maybe our state Office of Emergency Services and the Federal Emergency Management Administration (if not the FCC) should have a few people dedicated to the task of catching such rogues during emergencies.

To the question of who would do such a thing, the only two answers that come to mind are: 1. people with mental trouble (either psychotic or they have a sick sense of humor), or 2. (not wanting to start any paranoia threads here) people who do not want to see emergency relief work done; something like revolutionary Maoists who thrive on chaos.

In any case, they certainly need to be tracked down and punished.

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Date: Thu, 19 Oct 89 17:08:06 EDT  
From: Doug Theriault <dtheriau@wellfleet.com>  
Subject: Phone Patches and Them Jammers

I have listened to many disaster communications over HAM radio in the last few years. I have been ashamed to be called a HAM after listening to these "Sick Individuals" who seem to love jamming Emergency Nets.

This problem seems to be getting worse and worse. The Hugo disaster brought out a few sick one's. One night listening to 4U1UN and three stations (St. Croix, St. Thomas, San Juan) attempting to get information passed to the authorities on looting and a prison break, ONE individual just constantly harassed all 4 stations. There were bigotry statements which were said which not only did not belong on HAM radio but did not belong in the USA. This guy was so bad that the stations had to work out of band on a secret frequency just to get traffic passed.

As we all know it only takes a few rotten apples to ruin the barrel. Hams have been granted slices of a very nice communications spectrum, which can be taken back by our government quite easily. It's hard for us to justify our spectrum needs when we have incidents such as the jamming on HF/VHF bands; especially during Emergencies.

Many of the Emergency Nets followed the priority of outgoing

traffic instead of incomming. But it was interesting how many HAMS receivers were not working; Nets would say over and over that they were not taking health and welfare traffic but stations would still attempt to break in. LISTEN before TRANSMITTING.

Any Idea's on How to Stop this type of activity? Do Hams ever get PINK slips anymore? Are these people HAMS or Illegals? Are any of them ever caught? I've heard the NSA/FCC monitoring stations are quite efficient at locating transmissions. Can we hire them to help police HAM bands?

Thanks for listening to my soapbox.

73 - N01D - Doug Theriault - Wellfleet Communications

no1d@wellfleet.com or harvard!talcott!wellflt!no1d

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Date: 19 Oct 89 03:52:00 GMT  
From: ux1.cso.uiuc.edu!ux1.cso.uiuc.edu!phil@iuvox.cs.indiana.edu  
Subject: Phonepatches to San Fransisco

From: katzmann@robotics.jpl.nasa.gov  
> The main reason for posting here is just to say how upset I was to hear  
> some of the emergency ham nets getting jammed last night. These jammers  
> are very sick individuals!! I felt that if they could be caught that their  
> necks should be ringed and their equipment destroyed. These are probably  
> feeble little insecure twirps with nothing better to do!

From: geb@cadre.dsl.pitt.edu  
> Has anyone caught one of these jammers to find out what they are all  
> about? Surely they aren't hams. Are they just nuts that buy equipment  
> to create mischief? Can't someone go out with a triangulation set  
> and find the bastards?

I do believe we are going to have to do something about this problem.  
A crack down is surely in order. I was hearing it last night on at least  
two frequencies on 20m.

--Phil Howard KA9WGN--  
phil@ux1.cso.uiuc.edu

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Date: 19 Oct 89 00:40:50 GMT

From: gem.mps.ohio-state.edu!uakari.primate.wisc.edu!uwm.edu!ux1.cso.uiuc.edu!  
ux1.cso.uiuc.edu!phil@tut.cis.ohio-state.edu  
Subject: Phonepatches to San Fransisco

One of the problems in a situation like this is that the long distance phone lines of all the carriers become totally clogged with telephone calls. News reports I've heard indicate at least one company has controlled their call routing so that no calls except placed by an operator will go through so that the phone lines remain open for the important calls.

Because phone service IN THE AFFECTED AREA is spotty, it is more prudent to allow those who do have working phone service to call OUT to inform friends and relatives that they are ok, than it is to allow outsiders to call IN to find out, when a large portion of these calls will be wasted to dead service areas.

Ham radio traffic can be of great value to the general public by forwarding messages of this ("we are all ok") type. Even so, outbound messages should have higher priority than inbound ones.

I personally would like to hear about what INTRA Bay Area ham radio activity is taking place. I suspect that we will hear about this, but not immediately.

--Phil howard-- <phil@ux1.cso.uiuc.edu>  
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Date: 18 Oct 89 19:55:56 GMT  
From: henry.jpl.nasa.gov!elroy.jpl.nasa.gov!forsight!robotics.jpl.nasa.gov!  
katzmann@cs.ucla.edu  
Subject: Phonepatches to San Fransisco

I was one of those concerned about family members in the bay area. In particular my 81 year old grandfather in Concord, Ca. So about an hour after the quake I asked a ham in the area to give him a call to see if he was alright. Everything was fine luckily. This was not a phone patch, it was a simple one-way message transfered with the aid of ham radio.

The main reason for posting here is just to say how upset I was to hear some of the emergency ham nets getting jammed last night. These jammers are very sick individuals!! I felt that if they could be caught that their necks should be ringed and their equipment destroyed. These are probably feeble little insecure twirps with nothing better to do!

Anyway, I was curious if this kind of activity accompanied the emergency ham activities of Hurricane Hugo on the east coast, or are all the fruits

and nuts out here in California?

steve - WA6MUO

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Date: 18 Oct 89 06:07:11 GMT  
From: fluke!tenspeed@beaver.cs.washington.edu (Jim Ehrmin)  
Subject: Phonepatches to San Fransisco

As I write this note it has been approximately 5 1/2 hours since the tragic earthquake in San Fransisco. I have been monitoring the news on my television all evening and have heard repeated requests on the 3 major networks requesting that people should NOT try to call the San Fransisco area.

However, as I listen to my shortware radio I have heard several hams collecting phone numbers from other hams around the country who were trying to get in touch with relatives and loved ones.

We certainly all understand how anxious we would be to try and confirm the safety of relatives and loved ones but isn't this taking advantage of the situation? Somehow this struck me as being inappropriate. Am I missing something here? Is this part of normal emergency operations?

Please don't regard my question as a flame. I am very grateful for the service that ham radio can and does provide during emergency situations. How nice it would be if the American public would understand the importance of ham radio.

Jim Ehrmin  
aka tenspeed

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Tenspeed aka Jim Ehrmin

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Date: 18 Oct 89 20:58:49 GMT  
From: cadre.dsl.pitt.edu!geb@pt.cs.cmu.edu (Gordon E. Banks)  
Subject: Phonepatches to San Fransisco

In article <355@forsight.Jpl.Nasa.Gov> katzmann@robotics.jpl.nasa.gov () writes:  
>

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to create mischief? Can't someone go out with a triangulation set  
and find the bastards?

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Date: 19 Oct 89 08:49:55 GMT

From: jarthur!jlulejia@uunet.uu.net (John J. Lulejian)

Subject: Phonepatches to San Fransisco

In article <11791@fluke.COM> tenspeed@tc.fluke.COM (Jim Ehrmin) writes:

>However, as I listen to my shortware radio I have heard several hams  
>collecting phone numbers from other hams around the country who were  
>trying to get in touch with relatives and loved ones.

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>the safety of relatives and loved ones but isn't this taking advantage  
>of the situation? Somehow this struck me as being inappropriate. Am I  
>missing something here? Is this part of normal emergency operations?

Jim, last night I received several requests by my fellow students  
to try to attempt contacting their immediate families in Northern  
California. One young woman was particularly shaken up about the  
situation, especially since her sister lived in Santa Cruz.  
Although we did not go on the air (partly because of all the traffic)  
she was grateful that we tried.

This brings up an interesting point. Was she taking advantage of  
us because we had a radio and the phones were down? I don't think  
so. If she was, I think she would have demanded that we put the  
call through. I believe that what she and the other Northern  
California students was someone to tell and show them that everything  
was going to be okay. Believe it or not, this is part of the  
responsibility of being a ham radio operator. We have acquired a  
skill and we must not only use it to further our own knowledge, but  
we must be willing to help others.

Finally, I must ask whether or not taking messages for people in  
the time of crisis is a bad thing. Well, it is a bad thing if

this is slowing up emergency communication. I am convinced though that in this case most of the relief efforts were coordinated on VHF and UHF instead of HF. In this case, I think it was justifiable to take message requests over the air. Also, the hams I heard on the air, knew the phones were down and were holding the messages until such time that the phones were up.

I realize that this is a long answer to your question, but I hope that it provides you some insight into another aspect of hams helping the public.

Best Regards,

John Lulejian, KA6TCY  
President, Claremont Colleges ARC

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Date: 19 Oct 89 18:38:41 GMT  
From: sparkyfs!milkfs.istc.sri.com!gd@ames.arc.nasa.gov (Greg DesBrisay)  
Subject: Phonepatches to San Fransisco

Well, the day of the quake all telephone communication was difficult, in many areas it often took several minutes to get a dial tone, and lines to areas outside of the bay area were so overloaded that I was unable to place an out-of-area call until nearly midnight (the earthquake occurred at 5:04 PM). By the next day (yesterday, Wednesday) telephone service within the bay area seemed to be back to normal, although I hear on the radio that telephone traffic to areas outside of the bay area was still heavy, and the only people having difficulties were people trying call INTO the bay area. A friend in Japan was only able to complete a call to me this morning. So, I would have to agree that handling health and welfare type calls on the day of the quake would have been irresponsible, but as of yesterday the system seems to be able to handle such calls since they would enter the telephone system locally.

I am not associated with the telephone companies however, so if anyone KNOWS differently please say so!

greg

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End of INFO-HAMS Digest V89 Issue #776  
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